1/23/96

Dear Sirs,
I am researching an article concerning the filming of the assassination of John F. Kennedy by Abraham Zapruder. I seek information regarding the chronology of the day of the assassination and subsequent time period thereafter as experience by Mr. Zapruder. The article will focus on the many interesting aspects and questions arising from Mr. Zapruder's capture of this event on film. For example, where did Mr. Zapruder go immediately after leaving the scene of the assassination? Where was the film processed, how many copies were made and when, and by which processing facilities? Were any special procedures undertaken in the processing of this highly valuable film in order to give, for example, the highest image resolution possible? What was Zapruder's interaction with federal agents, government officials, police and other private and public individuals during and after that fateful day? Who contacted who as regards the sale of the film, and how many individuals, companies, agencies, etc. made offers to buy or obtain the film? One of the most intriguing questions which I have not heard answered is this: did the Federal Government attempt to purchase the film, or express any interest in obtaining it? Why didn't the U.S. government simply outbid Time-Life, which it easily could have done, in consideration of the potentially high degree of importance of this film as potential evidence? Couldn't the government legally seize the film as their property in light of national security and other considerations?

Other questions arise, in particular considering the role of Time-Life in their aquisition of the film. What was their purpose in aquiring the film? And why were they so adamant about not letting it be viewed except by the most select of officials? Today, who owns the film and how accessible is it to be viewed by the public?

These are a few of the many interesting questions which I have seen only the scantest of information on. Do you have any information which can help me, directly or indirectly, to answer these questions? Has any printed material addressed these questions at length, for example in a book, magazine article, etc? In particular, do you know of any at length interviews with Mr. Zapruder which might also give the day's chronology and following days of the events of Mr. Zapruder's life?

Finally, are there any good sources to obtain photographs and documents relating to the Zapruder film, for example, particular frames of the film, and other general photographs pertaining to the assassination (i.e photo of Texas Book Depository, aerial view of Dealey Plaza, other photos of that day, etc) with which I may obtain to illustrate my article, and by which I may obtain permission to reprint?

Your help is of greatest importance. I look forward to your reply as soon as possible. Sincerely,

Paul Keck

Paul Keck

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